

NOVEMBER 2020 | VOLUME 11 | ISSUE 11

YOUR DONATION BENEFITS THE VENDORS.
PLEASE BUY ONLY FROM BADGED VENDORS.

Has community-engaged policing made substantative changes? **Page 6**



GROUNDCOVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP | WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICH.

When temporary shelter closes its doors, SAWC turns to community for help. Page 2 **A SCARCITY** OF SHELTER

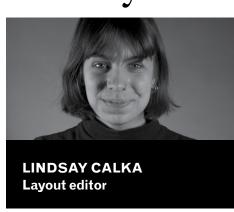
When temporary shelter closes its doors, SAWC turns to community for help

October brought a drop in temperatures and a rise in COVID-19 cases. In November, instead of opening-up to individuals experiencing homeslessness, shelters and churches around the city are closing their doors.

Since March, statewide COVID-19 social distancing policies required the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County to reduce capacity at the Robert J. Delonis Center building from 145 individuals to 38. SAWC in coordination with Washtenaw County and their partners, secured support and funding to establish and operate multiple offsite locations including two buildings at the Plymouth Road Red Roof Inn. Funding for this initiative came from the City of Ann Arbor, Community Development Block Grants, the Washtenaw County Mental Health Millage, CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) funding through Public Health and general funds from the County, and Federal Emergency Management Agency related funding for eligible expenses.

However, on October 1, use of one of the two buildings at Red Roof Inn ended — sending some residents to the Delonis Center, some into permanent housing, and others out onto the street again. Teresa Gillotti, Director of Washtenaw County's Office of Community and Economic Development, explained this choice as a matter of inefficient spending. "Red Roof Inn is charging a daily rate for the rooms, and the costs are not sustainable indefinitely."

This efficiency sentiment was shared by County Commissioner Sue Shink, who also articulated the priority to fund the safest, most cost-effective option for a shelter. When considering the impending reality of a second wave of COVID-19, Shink added, "If people can stay safe not being at the hotel, we should spend it on other services. There is an infinite



homeless, sanitation and more."

Living on the streets makes the houseless community at large more susceptible to an outbreak of the highly communicable COVID-19 due to the lack of adequate sleep, personal hygiene, nutrition, sanitation, frigid temperatures and limited access to health care assistance. Because of this, those with highest risk due to health complications were allowed to stay at the Inn and were transferred into the still open, second building at Red Roof. But on November 1, this off-site shelter is closing, and staff are scrambling to ensure that when the shelter doors close, residents will have "Rapid Rehousing efforts, including somewhere else to go.

Dan Kelly, Director of the SAWC, spoke

to this scramble when enumerating the multiple contingency plans quickly being coordinated as November 1 approaches. relieved to hear of the expanded testing The Delonis Center is increasing its and tracking that is occuring in the shelter capacity, but not by enough to match system. But I am disappointed to hear the amount of beds needed, and has of the increased reliance of Washtenaw been forced to rely on donated spaces County on donation-based services and to replace the Red Roof Inn rooms. spaces to meet the basic needs of our On October 10, MLive published an community: shelter. article on behalf of SAWC calling for community support through avenues of the goal of our public leadership is the both monetary donations and physical shelter-site offerings. Since that plea, of our homeless community, and all of SAWC, in collaboration with OCED, the our community. But still, six months Washtenaw County Administration, Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation on our town. Universities reopening Commission and the advice of Public and premature returns to normalcy

and limited-capacity Delonis Center. The Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center will be used for overnight winter sheltering beginning November 1; folks will stay overnight — only from a late 9 p.m. to an early 6 a.m. — and will have limited access to the building. The Westgate library branch will be used as the daytime shelter, only open from 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. SAWC received funding from the Center for Health and Research Transformation to be used for hotel rooms as needed for clients who are more medically fragile.

Since March, SAWC has been able to help 109 people move into permanent housing despite limited rental options, job insecurities, landlord moratoriums and the extended time it takes to get proper identification. These successful efforts have been achieved with the help of new community resources, including Rapid Rehousing, and support from a multitude of community partners administering this housing assistance. Gillotti shared that funding no longer used to operate Red Roof will be reinvested to expand prioritizing placements for clients at Red Roof and Delonis Center."

I am hopeful for the County's investment in Rapid Rehousing, and

At the end of the day, it seems as though same: support the health and well-being later, COVID-19 has not released its grip need: schools, people at risk of becoming Health has been able to secure a handful are resulting in another steady rise in

of alternatives to the closing Red Roof Inn case counts. The decision to terminate Red Roof is just another one of these premature actions that prioritizes financial gain over public health. City Council approved a developer's rezoning plan for redevelopment of the site back in July, and a site plan on August 17, paving the way for a six-story Hampton Inn and a Panera Bread restaurant. Some speculate that the hotel is being cleared so construction can begin. Now, more than ever, we need shelters to stay open and to take extraordinary financial measures to do this.

Our shelter system might not be cutting it in a pandemic, but how are agencies learning from this emergency response? And what priorities have guided our County's decisions? I think that COVID-19 safety must be factored into these decisions but should not be the bottom line. Instead, I suggest we consider dignified housing configurations and prioritizing the right to housing. I am concerned about the decision to prioritize the individuals already in shelter when offering permanent housing, as I predict neglect of those unable to access the already competitive, shrinking shelter space. I am skeptical that the actions described above will be enough — is it just a BandAid solution?



On October 28 residents at the Red Roof Inn, in coordination with Washtenaw Camp Outreach, protested the closure of the temporary shelter calling for a safer housing option.

GROUNDCOVER

Mission

Creating opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.

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MEET YOUR VENDOR



Hal Klenk, vendor No. 88

In one sentence, who are you? Hal Klenk, a U.S. Air Force veteran born April 16, 1944 who loves living life in a good fashion.

Where do you usually sell GCN? Cherry Republic

When and why did you start selling

I began selling GCN about seven years ago to supplement my income and to not be spiritually stagnant.

What words do you live by?

Live life honestly, do things honestly and wholeheartedly. Be humble and meek. Get rid of any negative pride in my life.

What is the worst and best thing about selling GCN?

The worst thing is seeing someone homeless and in poor health living outside in the extreme cold of the winter. The best thing has to be just the opposite; when that same person gets housing everything changes for the better.

If you had to eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Prime rib with mashed potatoes, coleslaw, and asparagus with iced tea and a wedge of lemon and chocolate amaretto cheesecake.

What is your superpower?

Other than my powerchair, it has to be God!

What song do you know by heart? "Take Me Out to the Ball Game"

What are your hobbies?

Fishing, hunting, sports, cards, dancing, and singing baritone bass.

What is the most impressive thing you know how to do?

Lead people who are veterans to the resources available to them in Washtenaw County.



Seventy-three days — Santa's helpers take note!

At the time I wrote this article there were 73 days left until Christmas. A lot of folks haven't thought about Halloween yet, but some are thinking ahead to Christmas morning. This note is for you Santa's helpers out there!

I remember when I was homeless back in the winter of 2019. There were a lot of places to find food and hygiene supplies— even socks and underwear. What was hard to come by



JIM CLARK **Groundcover vendor No. 139**

was good winter clothing. Especially boots, hats and gloves. The shelter did provide some protection but for the harsher winter days more was needed.

As you are doing your shopping this year, remember that even inexpensive or used winter clothing could save someone's life. If you have used clothing in your own closet that you were planning to let go of, take it to the Delonis Center or donate it to St Andrew's church on Division. It will be most appreciated!

Coping with COVID-19

DENISE SHEARER Groundcover vendor No. 490

Coping with COVID-19 is hard for everybody. It's caused a lot of changes that are hard to adjust to, like having to make sure you have masks on and not being close to your loved ones.

Everything I like to do has shut down. I miss selling the paper and hanging out with other vendors and Groundcover volunteers. I look forward to doing it

with my friends at the Fresh Start Clubhouse and Full Circle Drop-In Center. I miss mostly spending a lot of time with my Fair every summer, but couldn't this year because of COVID-19. I haven't been to church in a long time or been able to go to the library to hang out.

The way I cope with this pandemic is plenty of praying and loving on Jesus and praying on

again someday. I miss being the world. Another way to cope is relaxing and listening to good music and watching my favorite TV shows. I got more rest because of being home so much! boyfriend. I usually go to the Art I watch more good TV, like movies that I hadn't watched in a long time or ever watched. When I hang out with family and friends now (socially distant) it's more special. But my main coping skills are praying for myself and the whole world and loving Jesus.

Massive Boober goal realized: new sponsor and app launch!

Boober started back in 2016. I saved up all my money working four jobs while homeless to get my first pedicab. Boober grew from one cab to seven by August 2016. We started to plateau in August because Uber and Lyft started coming into town for the students.

My original goal was to turn Boober into a million-dollar company spread out around the state. On a cold snowy night in December as I was walking into New York Pizza Depot, I said to myself, why stop at a million-dollar business – development. Treehouse 603 saw digital marketing spot on the app. why not make it a billion-dollar me peddling around town with With financing from this deal, I'm business? So I started researching billion-dollar companies and their owners. Then I devised a plan to create my own rideshare later went to see the Boober app. We are now launching the advertising trailer. We went to the thriving business - showing that Go Boober app!



KEVIN SPANGLER Groundcover vendor No. 309

create reality.

sponsor that enabled the app my advertising trailer. They gave able to finish the app and market me a call. We met at The Chop- it. house and discussed options. We Treehouse 603 dispensary on Wil- anything is possible if you set The power of setting goals is liam St. (above the New York Pizza goals. critically important because goals Depot) where the owners met

wanted to move forward with a sponsorship. As I started to pedal away, a

privately and then told me they

shooting star crossed the sky. This moment was surreal. I focused on my goals to create a positive reality. Whatever you focus on, that's what you get.

Treehouse 603 decided to go with my premier package: branded coasters for bars, vard signs, two massive billboard trail-Boober has a new advertising ers, posters, chalk stencil, flyer distribution and getting the major

> It is amazing to come so far – from being homeless to starting a

GROUNDCOVER NEWS NOVEMBER 2020 NOVEMBER 2020 GROUNDCOVER NEWS **POLITICS ECONOMY**

At long last, The Lincoln Project

MARTIN STOLZENBERG Groundcover contributor

"America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter, it will be because we destroyed ourselves."

— Abraham Lincoln

Since the election of Donald Trump, opponents have lamented the lack of opposition from within the Republican Party. Elected leaders like Senators Marco Rubio (FL), Ted Cruz (TX) and Susan Collins (ME) either kowtowed, or — like Senators Jeff Flake (AZ) and Bob Corker (TN) and Representative Paul Ryan (WI) — chose not to run in 2018. The maverick, Senator John McCain (AZ), died in office.

The cupboard of internal opposition to Trump's earth-shaking presidency became increasingly bare. That is until December 17, 2019, nearly three years Stone: into the presidency, when the Lincoln Project was announced in *The New felon*. York Times editorial page by its co-founders George Conway, Steve felon. Schmidt, John Weaver, and Rick Wilson. They are all either current or *felon*. former Republican operatives and were joined by another four outspoken, notable Republicans: Jennifer Horn, Ron Steslow, Reed Galen, and Mike Madrid. The fact that George Conway was the husband of White House advisor Kellyanne Conway, drew some attention right off the bat.

The goal of this political action committee is simple: to prevent the reelection of Donald Trump in the 2020 presidential election and defeat his supporters in the United States Senate. In their Times manifesto, they said, "The 2020 general election, by every indication, will be about persuasion. Our efforts are aimed at persuading disaffected conservatives, Republicans and Republican-leaning independents in swing states and districts. As for the name, we look to Lincoln as our guide and inspiration." Their call words are "Never-Trump." In April 2020, the committee announced their endorsement of former Vice President Joe Biden for the presidency.

By the end of June 2020, the Lincoln Project had raised \$20 million, mostly they say from donations of \$50 and \$100. They use it to quickly react to the resulted in Parscale getting canned, the president's goat is working. It also news cycle with rapidly produced, no-holds-barred direct attacks on Trump, often hanging him on his own words.

As former Republican political strategists, this group thinks they have the best idea of how Trump and his associates think. And they want to get into Trump's head. For example, their limited television buys have been centered on swing states such as the crisis.

Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania, as well as New Jersey and Washington DC, making it clear that their aim is to get many of their ads in the face of Trump himself, perhaps with the idea of getting him "off his rails." They specifically spent a heavy \$2.4 million on TV in early July, some of it in Washington DC on Fox News where it was sure to be seen by their most famous viewer — the president

The tone of the ads themselves are dark — the way standard Republican accusatory ads are — the kind traditionally used against Democrats. Many of their ads are digital, never reaching television screens. A lot of money has been spent on ads like this one, posted on Twitter, following the president's commutation of the sentence of former campaign associate Roger

- Trump's campaign manager is a
- His deputy campaign manager is a
- His national security advisor is a
- His foreign policy advisor is a felon.
- His personal lawyer is a felon.
- *His long-time advisor is a felon.*
- It's not a campaign, it's a criminal

Then, when Trump had difficulty walking down a ramp at the West Point graduation where he spoke, The Lincoln Project launched the #TrumpIs-NotWell ad. This so agitated the president that on the next day, at the June 20 rally in Tulsa, he spent 15 minutes discussing his ability to walk down a ramp and to drink water onehanded (after a clip aired of him struggling and finally using two hands to hold a glass). Another ad mocked the small size of the Tulsa rally saying, "You've probably heard this before, but it was smaller than we expected."

Sometimes the Lincoln Project ads go deeper than the Democrats are even willing to go. A hard-hitting ad accuses Trump of being played by China and ends with a photo of the White House entirely tinted red. And one ad implied that Brad Parscale, Trump's campaign manager, was using probably because the president couldn't abide anyone making dough around him where he didn't get a cut. president.

The Lincoln Project went on the warpath for Trump's handling of the pandemic outbreak, blaming him for the deaths of thousands of "our greatest generation." They attribute the many deaths of veterans who reside in senior citizen homes to his mishandling of



An example of their working strategy was one ad called "Mourning in America," playing off President Reagan's 1984 reelection ad. It asked, "If we have another four years like this, will there be an America?" The president saw it, because he tweeted "group of RINO Republicans who failed badly 12 years ago, then again 8 years ago, and level. then got BADLY beaten by me, a political first-timer, 4 years ago" are "doing everything possible to get even for all of their many failures." RINO is shorthand for "Republican in name only".

The president then called out members of the group individually, saying, "They're all LOSERS, but Abe Lincoln, Republican, is all smiles!" The Lincoln Project received \$1.4 million dollars in donations following the president's campaign funds to enrich himself. This tweets, proving the strategy of getting subsequently killed a woman. suggests that not all 55 million Trump the mid-nineties, who planted the Twitter followers are fans of the seeds for not cooperating or compro-

Surprisingly, there are those who oppose the Lincoln Project because they attribute it to a Republican conceit that by defeating Trump the Republican Party can go back to "normal." Critics of the Lincoln Project argue that the problem is much deeper than Trump. It has been pointed out

that "normal" has been festering maliciousness, deceit and disingenuousness within the Republican Party for over 60 years.

- It started in 1964 with Richard M. Nixon and his campaign for Southern "states' rights", code for encouraging discriminatory practices at the state
- Then there was Ronald Reagan in 1972, who kicked off his campaign for the presidency in a little-known town of Philadelphia, MS, only known for the killing of civil rights workers.
- This was followed in 1988 by George H.W. Bush racially attacking his Democratic opponent Michael Dukakis for having furloughed a Black prisoner when Dukakis was governor of Massachusetts. The furloughed man
- Then there was Newt Gingrich in mising with the Democrats on anything.
- There was the 2013 extremist Tea Party segment within the Republican Party, shutting down the government with the aid of Ted Cruz.
- And of course, Mitch McConnell,

continued next page **→**

Offshoring American manufacturing jobs — better or worse in the last 4 years?

A linchpin of Donald Trump's 2016 campaign for President, especially in the Midwest, was promoting a resurgence in manufacturing jobs by stopping and reversing the outsourcing of those jobs to international countries where there are lax labor and environmental regulations.

Have President Trump's policies increased manufacturing jobs in the United States?

A report from Global Trade Watch, a division of the non-partisan, non-profit consumer advocacy organization Public Citizen, indicates that over 200,000 manufacturing jobs moved from the United States to other countries, and the trade deficit increased by 18% during these past four years.

The increase in manufacturing jobs that began in 2016 flattened in 2018. Steep declines began in early 2019, according to the Supply Management's Purchasing Managers Index.

Trump promised he would punish corporations that send jobs overseas by denying them federal contracts. Instead, those corporations received \$425 billion in federal contracts. One-quarter of fedcontract dollars



corporations that outsourced their jobs to other countries. Federal contracts to companies that offshore were two and a half times larger — \$10 billion more than contracts to companies that do all $their manufacturing in \, the \, United \, States.$

Stopping jobs from going to China was another of Trump's campaign themes. But firms that sent jobs to China received \$113 billion in federal contracts during the Trump administration.

The Trump tax overhaul set a 21% corporate tax on profits made in the United States. But the tax on profits made elsewhere was only 10.5%, thereby incentivizing corporations to manufacture with other countries. The China treaty also

contained incentives to manufacture offshore. It protects investors and the intellectual property of American companies that manufacture at plants in China. Aspects of the trade war with China, such as the steel tariffs, crippled some U.S. manufacturers.

seen in Michigan where there has been a net loss of 50,000 manufacturing jobs. Even before COVID-19, Michigan plants were closing. The downriver Great Lakes Steel Company laid off 1,500 workers just before Christmas in 2019. AK Steel in Dearborn is permanently shutting down, displacing 350 workers.

Neighboring Ohio experienced similar setbacks. "The job situation in Ohio was as bad in 2019 as it was in 2009," said Ohio Congressman Tim Ryan at a Public Citizen hosted press conference on Oct.

Ryan cited the example of Lordstown Motors, an electric vehicle manufacturing plant that works with General Motors. They have struggled as Trump policies eliminated funding sources and tax credits for electric vehicles and alternative energy development. Ryan pointed out that charging stations alone

are a worldwide multi-trillion dollar industry.

"We are being beaten in China, India and W. Europe in the global competition to replace the internal combustion engine, and we can't afford to lose that fight," said Michigan Congresswoman The impacts of those policies can be Debbie Dingell at the same press conference. "We need to be investing, doing R&D in battery research ... and building

> Are there policies that could reverse this trend? Consider that twice as many jobs were created in the last year of the Obama presidency (62,145) than in 2019 under Trump's (26,736). Biden's Build Back Better plan enumerates some, including:

- Tax policies that include a penalty for offshoring and tax credits for domestic manufacturing;
- Renegotiate provisions in trade agreements that have "Buy American"
- Invest in future technologies such as Electric Vehicle charging stations and artificial intelligence;
- Improve domestic infrastructure;
- Invest in workforce training;
- Close the digital divide.



U.S. Manufacturing Growth Chart (U.S. Institute for Supply Management Purchasing Managers Index Data)

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Senate Majority Leader from Kentucky, who made it his No.1 priority, starting in 2010, to defeat anything proposed by President Barack Obama and ultimately to defeat him.

All this led up to the administration of Donald J. Trump, who has carried the Republican mean-spiritedness to new heights, with an administration built on divisiveness and malice toward just about every minority group you can think of.

The Lincoln Project is certainly a bold and audacious movement that has added spice to the 2020 election. How effective is it? Well, the Lincoln Project has succeeded in getting the attention of the president and a lot of other people as well.

Is it an effective vehicle to move voters into the Democratic column? That's anyone's guess. Certainly, it won't resonate with the hardcore Trump Republicans. It may be that the Lincoln Project leaders will move the centrist voter column with messages that are just the thing that voters will be thinking of as they approach the voting booth or prepare to fill out an absentee ballot.

Those who dismiss the Lincoln Project fear that the Republican Party with Trump has sold its soul to the devil. The new "normal," they feel, will be a Trump clone. But maybe the "Never-Trump" segment will gain momentum in the Republican Party and bring about a "new normal" built on reasonable conservative values.

We can hope, can't we?

COMMUNITY EVENTS

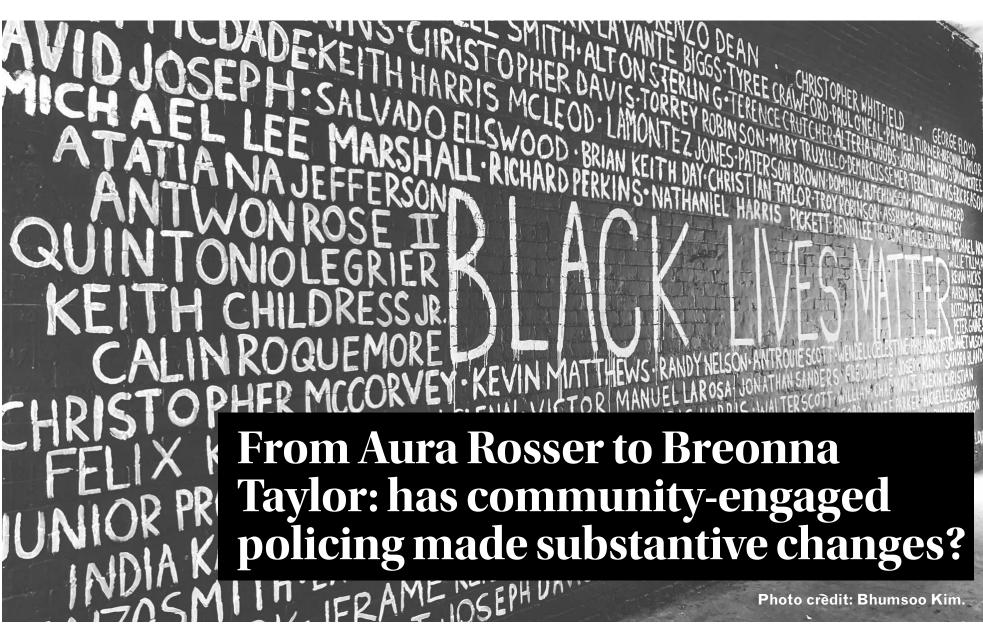
Election Day, November 3: Polls are open 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, November 15-22

SAWC Hustle for Housing 5K, November 14: Register for this virtual fundraiser at https://www.annarborshelter.org/ hustle-for-housing

Project Connect, November 14: Michigan Movement in collaboration with Wolverine Street Medicine will be performing health check-ups and distributing care packages and other essentials in downtown Ann Arbor 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

> IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADVERTISE A COMMUNITY EVENT HAPPENING NEXT MONTH PLEASE EMAIL CONTACT@GROUNDCOVERNEWS.ORG



"We need to keep making our streets safer and our criminal justice system fairer - our homeland more secure, our world more peaceful and sustainable for the next generation."

- President Barack Obama

On November 10, 2014, Ms. Aura Rain Rosser was killed by an Ann Arbor Police Officer in her own home. What happened that night sparked a series of anti-police brutality protests, approximately six years ago.

Rosser was born in the Lansing area in 1974. She eventually graduated in 1992 from Detroit's Cass Tech in Detroit in 1992. Her friends described life. A year before her death, Rosser moved from Detroit to Ann Arbor to knife. escape poverty and start a new life of hope and opportunity. She struggled with mental health issues and attendant substance abuse.

Stephens, called 911 in the middle of ers marched through Ann Arbor's and spontaneous riots all over Amerthe night on November 10 to request an ambulance and police intervention. He reported that he had been stabbed by his girlfriend, Aura Rosser. At 3:07 am, Rosser was fatally shot at her Ann Arbor home, 2033 Winewood St. The shooter was Ann Arbor Police Department Officer David Reid.

After the shooting, the two Ann Arbor police officers involved were placed on paid administrative leave as



the County Prosecutor reviewed the investigative report from the Michigan State Police. It said that the two officers responding to a domestic violence evidence.

incident found 40-year-old Aura

The key question is "Was it necessary to shoot and kill Ms. Rosser?"

Many thought it was unnecessary and tragic. On the first anniversary of Her live-in boyfriend, Victor Lynn Rosser's shooting hundreds of protestdowntown and in front of City Hall. Many media companies in the local area such as WEMU, and MLive covered the protests. Washtenaw County Prosecutor Brian Mackie refused to file a murder charge against the shooting police officer. Community members were disappointed, and the feeling of injustice flared the passion for

Who were the people police killed with impunity?

On July 17, 2014, New York City Black resident Eric Garner died on the streets at age 43 from a police chokehold. He begged for his life and kept saying "I can't breathe! I can't breathe!! I can't breathe!!!" The Justice Department decided not to bring charges against the police officers involved. Five years later, there were still no indictments in Garner's death even though the whole world saw the video

On August 9, 2014, 18-year-old her as someone in search of a better Rosser high and drunk. She Michael Brown was shot to death by a approached the officers with a kitchen young white police officer, Darren Wilson, in the small city of Ferguson a suburb of St. Louis, Missouri. The St. Louis County Prosecutor refused to bring charges against the officer who shot and killed Brown.

> It was a long hot summer of protest ica. The Black Lives Matter movement emerged as a leading voice against racial injustice and systemic racism.

> These protests and riots occurred against the backdrop of Ebola pandemic fears. It was already a huge problem in the West African nations of Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone.

> 2014 was a time of fear, uncertainty and widespread community outrage. There were calls for racial justice,



A year before her death, Aura Rosser moved from Detroit to Ann Arbor to escape poverty and start a new life of hope and opportunity.

transparency, accountability, and above all, a reformed criminal justice

More deaths and protests amid COVID-19 pandemic

The spring and summer of 2020 were hot and simmering with rage, protests, and riots across American cities, suburbs, little rural towns, and major cities around the world. According to the New York Times on May 17, 2017, there were 15 high-profile deaths of Black lives which ended in confrontation with police between 2014 and 2016. The subsequent fatal shooting of

continued next page **→**

Say their names and tell their stories











According to the New York Times report of May 17, 2017, there were 15 high-profile deaths of Black lives which ended in confrontation with police between 2014 and 2016. The 2014-2016 fatal encounters that galvanized protests nation-wide include the following: Eric Garner (43), Michael Brown (18), Laquan McDonald (17), Tamir Rice (12), Walter Scott (50), Samuel Dubos (43), Freddie Gray (25), Alton Sterling (37), and Philando Castile (32).

In 2020, the following high-profile encounters with the police also galvanized protests and riots across the nation and in some cities overseas. The individuals were: Breonna Taylor (26, Louisville), Ahmaud Arbery (25, Brunswick), George Floyd (46, Minneapolis), Rayshard Brooks (27 Atlanta), Jacob Blake (29, Kenosha). Pictures of them are shown on the left in the order their

Breonna Taylor was a 26-year-old unarmed African American who was shot and killed in her Louisville, Kentucky home on March 13, 2020. It was said that "white plain-clothes police officers Jonathan Mattingly, Brett Hankinson, and Myles Cosgrove of Louisville Metro Police Department forced entry into the apartment where Breonna Taylor was sleeping. Her boyfriend fired a shot. The plain-clothes officer returned fire, killing Ms. Taylor. Taylor was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan and was raised in Louisville, Kentucky. She attended Western High School. One of her teachers said that Breonna loved mathematics. After high school, she became a certified EMT and worked for a while at the Louisville Metropolitan City government.

On February 23rd Ahmaud Marquez Arbery, a 25-year-old African American jogger was chased by a former Georgia law enforcement officer and his son, both white. Arbery was found dead in the town of Brunswick (Satilla Shores) which is located in Glynn County, Georgia. A video of the fatal shooting emerged and prompted outrage across the nation.

George Floyd died on May 25 in Minneapolis while officers detained him with a knee on his neck for 8 minutes and 43 seconds on suspicion of writing a counterfeit check. Floyd was the father of 5 who lost his job working security for a bar and restaurant at the start of the pandemic.

Rayshard Brooks, a father of three young children and a teenage step-son, was killed on June 12 while resisting arrest after falling asleep in a fastfood drive-through.

A police officer shot Jacob Blake in the back seven times when he leaned in the door of his SUV and police saw him holding a knife. Three of his six children were in the backseat of the SUV. The shooting left Blake paralyzed from the waist down.

Our Statement of Solidarity with Black **Lives Matter**

From its inception, Groundcover **News** has approached all its activities with belief in the following principles, as written on our website:

- All people have the right to
- Diversity has intrinsic value.
- Poverty is political systemic change is necessary.
- Building community is essential to social change.
- Political effectiveness requires staying power.
- Solutions to poverty must involve people who are directly affected.
- Risks are necessary to create positive change.
- Meeting people where they are honors their skills and potential.
- We are committed to quality, professionalism, and accountability in everything we

We feel our attachment to these principles even more strongly today. If they resonate with you too, and you are looking for a way to make a difference during these life-changing times, please join us as a volunteer, supporter, friend or Board Member. To let us know, email: contact@ groundcovernews.com.

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Ahmaud Arbery, Rayshard Brooks, Breonna Taylor, and the chokehold of George Floyd brought new outrage that continues to echo and reverberate across the American landscape.

Random survey for a new and improved community policing

The sensible questions at this junc-

- What has Ann Arbor learned from the Aura Rosser fatal encounter with the police?
- What have the police department and the city leaders done to enhance partnerships and trust between the local community and the police?
- What steps are being taken to

the process of community policing?

During the months of September and October 2020, members of the Mercy House community, an affiliate of MISSION, conducted several unscientific random surveys of folks who stay in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti. They were asked three interrelated questions: What are your viewpoints about tice to a restorative model. Greg would ing training programs to address community policing? How can we also like the city to devote more of its mental health crises, de-escalation build trust between the police and the vulnerable communities? What do you want to see in a new community policing reform plan for Ann Arbor?

in Ypsilanti but works in Ann Arbor, said he would like to see more police oversight boards that have real authority and advisory functions - made up of community members - serve as a review board for police misconduct.

cultural sensitivity and implicit bias conversations. training. He would like to see more investigations of police misconduct, Where do we go from

Greg, a community leader and local activist, would like a transformation from a punitive model of criminal jusbudget to a system of support and care in disadvantaged communities, ending the school-to-prison pipelines which get a lot of young people caught Azah, a Census employee who lives in the criminal justice system.

There were several respondents who wanted to defund the police. However, the majority of the people interviewed wanted greater citizen participation, more intergroup respect, better peaceful communication, and a higher level

maximize community involvement in He would also like to see increased of trust and positive affirmation minority police recruitment, as well as more listening, dialogue, and

Massive community protests in Ann Arbor precipitated the AAPD institutand bias, and adopting the use of body cameras. A police review commission was established as part of City government with 11 community members appointed by the Mayor, not the independent citizen's review board that activists had sought.

At the national level, the 116th Congress passed H.R.7120 — The George

see **POLICING** on page 11 →

Barrier Busters — community collaboration to prevent homelessness

SUSAN BECKETT

Barrier Busters funds emergency assistance to Washtenaw County residents. It is a coalition of over 90 nonprofit and local government service providers. Representatives from each agency meet monthly to collaborate on case management, share best practices and strategies for addressing barriers to service and review urgent needs that would normally go unmet due to agency funding shortfalls or obstructive policies. Most often the funds prevent evictions and utility shutoffs and assist with other emergency costs that threaten residents' housing and financial stability.

Historically, the Barrier Busters program would provide assistance in paying overdue rent to keep individuals from being evicted. However, because of increased needs, a new program and partnership between the Office of Community and Economic Development, Housing Access for Washtenaw County, and Legal Ser- JFS to apply for unemployment insurvices of South Central Michigan was ance, he had not received any paydesigned specifically to keep people in ments and his rent and bills were due. worked to increase and expand the

of eviction, they should contact HAWC income, and little savings, the oneand or Legal Services rather than other Barrier Busters Agencies to receive tailored services and resources.

Financial assistance requests made to the Barrier Buster Unmet Needs Fund tripled during the first months of the COVID-19 pandemic. From March 18 to June 30, more than \$200,000 in direct assistance was provided to 346 households. This funding helped them stay housed, cover utility and medical bills and other urgent needs. Immigrant households seem to be particularly impacted, with over half of all requests going to support them.

"One family, who had arrived in the U.S. less than one year ago, experienced economic hardship after the CARES act, flowed through the Office head of household was laid off from his job at a hotel after it closed due to the pandemic," said Chrissy Taylor, Agency for Washtenaw County and Director of Access and Community allowed Community Services Block Due to the pandemic, some agencies Services at Jewish Family Services of Grant funds to be added to Barrier Washtenaw County. "Although this client had worked with caseworkers at their homes. If individuals are at risk With multiple children to support, no capacity of Barrier Busters by

time rental assistance from Barrier Busters prevented them from falling behind on their rent until the unemployment insurance payments were approved. Stories like this are happen-

> throughout the county." To meet the increased need in immigrant and non-immigrant households, additional funding was secured immediately through partners including Washtenaw County, United Way of Washtenaw County, Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation, Pittsfield Township, and the City of Ypsilanti. Additionally, funding from the first federal pandemic relief package, the of Community and Economic Development as the Community Action

ing to immigrant and refugee families

with unmet needs. In addition to funding, OCED

Busters. This increased support for

low-income individuals and families

welcoming new partners with strong community connections to the network. OCED was able to quickly arrange for and conduct virtual training sessions this spring and summer with existing non-profit partners along with neighborhood associations, churches and others. These new Barrier Busters partners joined an existing network of more than 100 community partners who work together to coordinate care, stay up to date on available resources in the community and provide financial assistance to prevent

Residents work through a Barrier Busters agency to meet their funding needs. A complete list of Barrier Buster agencies and their contact information can be found on the OCED website at https://www.washtenaw.org/2818/ Barrier-Buster-Agency-Provider-List. are not serving clients at the moment. Those who are taking clients include:

- SOS Community Services
- Housing Access of Washtenaw

continued next page **→**

Is COVID-19 making it hard to make ends meet?

If you're struggling to keep up with rent, mortage, or utilities payments, or need help paying for food, childcare, or gas for your car the Barrier Buster Network is here to support you



Visit Washtenaw.org/2818 or contact one of these Barrier Busters agencies to help you pay your bills as soon as possible:

Housing Access for Washtenaw County

Phone: 734.961.1999

Website: housingaccess.net

SOS Community Services

Phone: 734.484.5411 Website: www.soscs.org

Washtenaw Health Plan

Phone: 734.544.3030

Website: www.washtenaw.org/WHP

Jewish Family Services

Phone: 734.769.0209 Website: <u>ifsannarbor.org</u>

Landlord recruitment and risk mitigation join Prop C as promising homelessness alleviation initiatives

SUSAN BECKETT

The COVID-enhanced dangers of homelessness continue, as do the pursuits of strategies to get people housed. Funding from Prop C millage is one promising strategy. It will provide a steady stream of income that can be used to develop affordable housing in Ann Arbor. The Landlord Recruitment and Engagement Program with its Landlord Risk Mitigation Fund is another.

People are sometimes unhoused because of finances, sometimes because they were evicted in the past or have some other deficiency in their credit history, because they had been incarcerated or, most often, a combination of these risk factors that are red flags to landlords. The community has Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8) available, but recipients struggle to find landlords willing to accept them.

Washtenaw Housing Alliance developed a program to help landlords fill their units and reduce homelessness while minimizing the risk of financial losses from leasing to high-risk renters. The Landlord Recruitment and Engagement Program provides support for landlords and property managers, creating partnerships that help our community's most vulnerable residents identify safe, affordable and long-term housing.

Landlord program benefits

- Ensure that vacant units are rapidly filled with access to a large pool of pre-screened, potential tenants seeking housing.
- deposit: Many Housing Alliance agencies offer programs that provide their clients with a security deposit, move-in cost assistance and rental assistance in the form of a Housing choice for stabilization. Choice Voucher [long-term] or other short-term rental support.
- **Incentive and Risk Mitigation Fund:** The Landlord Incentive and Risk Mitigation Fund offers financial incentives and coverage for unit damages or vacancy loss in instances where a tenancy does not work out.
- Ongoing case management and tenant education: Clients are

connected to case management support through a Housing Alliance agency, and receive access to tenant and financial education resources.

- Eviction prevention services: Clients struggling to make rent payments are connected to local resources that provide eviction diversion and prevention support.
- Single point of contact: The Housing Alliance's new Community Housing Locator serves as a liaison between the landlord and member agencies and can quickly help troubleshoot issues if they arise.

The Landlord Incentive and Risk Mitigation Fund is a pilot program that will be used to assist Housing Alliance agency partners in placing chronically or literally homeless clients, as well as clients recently released from incarceration. Its resources are available for holding fees, if necessary, so clients' applications will be considered (since Housing Choice Voucher funds are not released until a rental contract is signed). The Fund stands ready to cover damages or losses that result from risky rentals. In some cases, landlords will receive financial incentives to relax screening criteria for potential tenants.

The pilot is being funded with \$35 thousand from Pittsfield Township and Religious Action for Affordable Housing.

The cold is coming and there continue to be no reasonable public hygiene options in downtown Ann Arbor for those sleeping in the rough - not even a public bathroom. (Is it any wonder that the Delonis Center's supply of adult absorbent products (diapers) runs out?) • Guaranteed rent/security It is imperative that people move into appropriate living spaces where they can keep themselves clean and warm. Shelters are over capacity for safe distancing. Long-term housing is the best

Apartments are more available than usual since many students did not • Access to the new Landlord return to campus this semester. Helping landlords fill their units while alleviating homelessness is a win-win for the community. Landlords can become part of the Program after filling out a form on the Housing Alliance website:

www.whalliance.org/washtenaw -county-land-lord-unit-availability.

BARRIER BUSTERS from previous page

- Washtenaw Health Plan
- Jewish Family Services
- Catholic Social Services
- Friends in Deed
- Aid in Milan
- Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living
- Chelsea Senior Center
- Manchester Community Resource Center
- Northfield Human Services
- Faith in Action
- Housing Bureau for Seniors at Michigan Medicine

Many of these organizations have their personnel working remotely, so there may be response delays.

"We're proud to work with such amazing partners who continue to connect with and support individuals and families with their immediate needs as a result of COVID-19," said OCED Director Teresa Gillotti. "Early on, the Shelter in Place order created challenges, and many were unable to work. We know that it will continue, so we look to grow the fund to help support residents through the end of the year and into 2021."

Individuals interested in supporting Barrier Busters can make donations to the Emergency Unmet Need Fund, where 100% of their donation will go to helping an individual or family in our community. **Donations can** be made by clicking on the following link, and selecting "Washtenaw" from the drop-down menu of counties: http://bit.ly/bb-donations.





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The awakening of all through shared resources

Groundcover vendor No. 490

The awakening of all through shared resources is a basic translation of the two Sanskrit words Sarvodava Shramadana. Sarvodaya refers to the awakening of all— the intention to benefit all beings and realizing that awakened ability. Shramadana indicates that the path to this awakening is through shared resources. The essential resources are people, different kinds of labor, music, food and the earth itself.

Building the community that builds itself as an expression of its awareness is the evolution of adaptation to a more complete form of expression. Experienced elders are respected mentors for teachers of all ages. The creativity that can arise from this theory and practice is a great

Sarvodaya Shramadana arose as an organization in post-colonial Sri Lanka during the freshness of independence from formal British colonialism that ended in 1948. Dr. Ariyaratne was teaching high school science in a Buddhist influenced culture. The reality of interrelatedness was a unifying lesson that they applied to their own

Dr. Ariyaratne's class decided to do

a workcamp in a poor village. They would share food, music and labor for whatever project the village said they wanted. They built a road from the village to the main road. Building the road was empowering, and later Dr. Ariyaratne said, "We built the road and the road built us!"

Sarvodaya Shramadana was born and spread to many villages, doing the necessary work of life. Food, housing, education, culture and healthcare were the areas that villages focused on improving. Meetings begin with meditation and all religions or political practices have in their turn calm breathing sessions to help focus body and mind for work in the community.

To stay on course — in the chaos of civilization as we know it — is the challenge to being present in the moment that is arising and its fresh possibilities.

Dr. Ariyaratne will be 90 years old on November 12. He is being honored for the freedom movement that Sarvodaya Shramadana embodies and the guidance he gives as a witness to interrelatedness. Every people has a gift that can benefit others, and on November 12 we honor Sri Lanka and ourselves when we follow the link that awakens ourselves and others. This great sharing will be welcomed by our





Dr. Ariyante, pictured above left, will be 90 years old on November 12. A former high school teacher, he conducted the first shramadana work camp in 1958, which eventually led to the establishment of the largest non-governmental organization in the country.

Mother Earth as we rediscover the commons that human beings share.

Our addictions to whatever commodity fetish can be faced and transformed into creativity. Are you ready? Follow your curiosity and make a connection that serves your real purpose. It has a practical side that is as real as a good shared meal. The earth loves us and wants us to live well. Take a breath and experience life anew.

Remember Thanksgiving. It changed forever at Standing Rock: Water is Life.



Awake

RONALD PAGERSKI Groundcover contributor

When will the world awake? Will we try to do better for our own sake? The cries of the poor are seldom heard, they don't even get a kind word. When will we awake?

Could be on the verge of nuclear holocaust, when that happens all could be

Will that make us awake?

Pollution ruins the land, emissions taint the seas, while the people buy bigger and bigger SUVs.

Will we ever awake?

Nations kill each other, while at home we hate our brother because of politics or skin color.

Will we ever awake?

While there is still some time, let's do some changin' for all our sake are you

random thoughts

GUESS WHO

Groundcover vendor No. 22

Not a noise in the house except the ringing in my ears,

and the sound of the dryer tumbling the clothes.

It's kinda nice, but being alone has its blows. Time to think, time to slow.

The sunshine's in the kitchen window.

It's a nice sight to see

I still have the kitchen light on

because the sun doesn't always show

in and out of the clouds on an actually warm fall day. But soon the winds and sky will howl of winters way

and once again to hibernate, out only to get to work

for peanuts and not have much to show for it

However, I am grateful for what I have.

God give me strength to do more of what I'm put on this earth for with a side of good fortune to pay my bills and more.

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increasing diversity in the police force. "Officer diversity may broaden understanding of diverse communities and increase trust in law enforcement." Another report suggestion is that "reducing race-specific violent" ence rooms, and the power to make

Hispanic adults." Diversity within the Ann Arbor neighbors do matter. Police Department has increased since 2014.

In order to have successful community-engaged policing in Ann Arbor an effort to address the mental health

should work in partnership with the police department and the local communities to achieve more peaceful and safe resolutions of conflicts. There are lessons to be learned from cities like Portland, Oregon, Arlington, Texas, and Los Angeles, California. approaches where crisis intervention teams include social workers, clinical psychologists and community volunteers.

3

8

5

9

Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and

3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9

6

9

→ POLICING from page 7

Floyd Justice in Policing Act. There

were 230 co-sponsors in the House.

According to securitymagazine.com,

The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act is the "first ever bold, comprehen-

sive approach to hold police account-

able, change the culture of law

enforcement, empower our commu-

nities, and build trust between law

enforcement and our communities by

addressing systemic racism and bias

to help save lives." The legislation has

The National Academy of Sciences

published a research article titled

"Officer Characteristics and Racial

Disparities in fatal officer-involved

shooting." The authors said, "concerns

that white officers might dispropor-

tionately fatally shoot racial minorities

legitimacy." The policy implication of

the article is that there is merit in

been blocked in the Senate.

9

8

5

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9

These innovative approaches of maximum community-engaged policing have been successful in reducing crime, such as gun violence, gangs, burglaries, arson and abandoned buildings. Interdisciplinary teams which include social workers are being dispatched to police calls in Ann Arbor where mental health issues are anticipated. It is uncertain if there are can have powerful effects on police enough of these crisis response teams to accommodate the increasing numbers of mental-health-related

Community members and residents of disadvantaged neighborhoods should know that they have a voice and a place at the table in the confercrimes should be an effective way to change. They should also know that reduce fatal shootings of Black and they are being listened to and that the lives of their family members and

Barack Obama said, "... the future rewards those who press on. I don't have time to feel sorry for myself. I don't have time to complain. I'm going and across the nation, there must be to press on." He also said, "If you're walking down the right path and you crisis. Crisis Intervention Teams are willing to keep walking, eventually

Sudoku **** 4puz.com

1. Melville's mad mariner 5. Personal moral code 10. Barrels with taps 14. Dance performed to 'Maxwell's Rant" or "Rakish Paddy"

made with Retsyn crystals 19. Split 20. Hold up

18. Brand of breath mints

24. "I gotta have (George Michael lyric) 25. Hold up

35. "___ Zoom!" (online meeting slogan) 36. Hold up

series by Karen Karbo) 49. Breed with a curly tail and a double coat

51. Amino acid aiding

Masked Action

by Tracy Bennett

ACROSS

6

6

15. Something shared on 16. Brainchild 17. The root of all poi

22. Slammed the door at a crossroad, say

26. Dance performed to

'Hoop-Dee-Doo" or "On Your Toes" 30. "Yes We ___"

31. Daub to consecrate

38. Where you might hear that song about Muscat 42. Vodka brewed in Latvia,

46. Kick-___ Women (book 9. "Hamilton" outfitters

Mariinsky Ballet 12. Swiss headquarters for

First published in "Grids for Good" (gridsforgood.org)

54. Hose material 56. Nancy in the 60. "Sacred" nester in the wetlands 64. It's worth ever

65. Divided land of rivers and mountains and **66.** Mount (Greek or landmark) 67. Math groups 68. Constellation

57. Hold up

Reptilian

69. Nursing scrubs shade, at times DOWN 1. Fine or dark practices

2. Recover with time 3. It's flying out of Moscov 4. Show affection from six feet away, say 5. Theme park in Bay Lake

7. Trumpet, for one 8. 1965 TV episode "Cousin Visits the Addams

6. "Love, Reign O'er Me'

10. Name still linked to the 11. So nice, like paradise

25. "Ditto" 50. Stag's growth 26. Friend indeed 53. Starts a thread 27. Word repeated in "Each 55. Wild oats of a sort teach 57. "The Blessed Unrest artist Bareilles 32. Played it unsafe 58. Bear made of 68-Across

colleague of Jane and Birutė

23. Kellogg's Cracklin' Oat

13. Make melancholy

21. "The Trimates"

59. List-ending abbr 37. Maneuver like moths 62. Camp bed 39. Lunar event in a Wes Anderson title

40. Jean a.k.a. Hans who 41. Actress Long or

43. High desert town in New

45. Friend in deed

48. Device used after

orthopedic surgery

47. Name on a honey bear

46. Savory jellies

can American community is walking the right path, demanding justice for

These cities have adopted innovative you'll make progress." The local Afri- Aura Rosser and other Black victims of violent police encounters.

Bethlehem United Church of Christ

whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here 423 S. Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 734-665-6149 Bethlehem-ucc.org facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2

Bethlehem Church is home of the Groundcover office



NOVEMBER 2020 EVENTS AT BETHLEHEM

Bethlehem has cancelled all in-person activities due to COVID-19. Here are ways you can experience our 10 am worship service on Sundays:

Most Simple - Tune in to our live radio broadcast on WAAM 1600AM.

You can also listen to WAAM on Tune In by following this link

: http://www.mainstreamnetwork.com/listen/player.asp?station=waam-am&listen=Listen+Live. (Click the shiny "play" button on the lower left of the page, ignoring any advertisements.)

Beginning at 9:55 Sunday, you will find our Live Video at Bethlehem's Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2

Following the 10 am service on Sunday, the video will be posted to the Bethlehem UCC website www.bethlehem-ucc.org. We have begun posting the service to Bethlehem's YouTube page, it will be available there at 10 am on Sundays.

Thank you all. We look forward to worshiping together.



Sunday Worship Times 10:00 am Sanctuary

streamed on Facebook

Teriyaki chicken

ELIZABETH BAUMAN Groundcover contributor

Ingredients:

4 chicken breasts
8 pineapple slices
½ cup pineapple juice
½ cup soy sauce
½ cup butter
½ cup brown sugar
1 T. dissolved cornstarch
Scant amount of water

Directions:

Marinate chicken breasts for two hours in soy sauce and pineapple juice. Broil to cook. Melt butter in a small saucepan Add brown sugar and water. Bring to simmer. Do not boil. Add cornstarch to thicken and simmer for 3 or 4 more minutes. Place pineapple slices on chicken



and then pour butter/sugar liquid on top to serve.

Serve with rice and veggies. A quick, easy dinner!

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

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#

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Regular Mass Times Mon-Thurs 9:15am

Fri 8:15am

Sat 5pm 7pm (Spanish)

Sun 10:30am

Ann Arbor Groundscores

WILLIE WILL Groundcover contributor

After returning to Ann Arbor, Willie Will scours his surroundings as he walks, taking note of these treasures and capturing sights often overlooked.











During the LiveStream mass, make a spiritual communion by praying this or a similar prayer:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unit myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

